

PIAC Working Group REPORT

Working Group	Parents Make a Difference Conference
Date	December 19, 2017
Description/Objective	<p><i>[This is a brief standard description of the working group that will always be present on every form. It will allow for new members to easily understand the purpose of the group.]</i></p> <p>PIAC holds an annual Parents Make a Difference Conference each year in the fall. The goal of the conference is to promote and support parent involvement and engagement in their children's education. The conference offers workshops, networking, and information from various educational organizations to all parents/guardians with children in the TDSB and community members. This year, we will be co-hosting the event with Middle Childhood Matters Coalition Toronto (MCMCT) The workshop for 2017 was Sunday November 25, 2017 from 8:00am-4:00pm at Earl Haig Secondary School (100 Princess Ave)</p>
Update	<p><i>[This section will be the main substance of the form where updates since the last meeting can be included. It should be in bullet form to make it easy to read and reference.]</i></p> <p>Feedback received after the conference gathered from conference surveys, emails and a WG meeting offered the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Bussing-the bus marshals were of great help this year but would have been better to communicate information to delegates using the bus transportation. Suggestion was made to ask delegates for a cellphone number that can be used by bus marshals to communicate on the morning of the conference, better way-finding descriptions of where the bus stops are at the location where the parents are to be picked up. *Workshops- were well attended and received well, the only concern was that they were too short. Suggestions made were to shave time off from different times such as lunch or other less programmed times. *Volunteers-Students really enjoyed volunteering at the event and felt organized, earlier identified managers and defined responsibilities of the volunteer jobs would make the experience even better. *Location-The accessibility to some of the facilities, registration was in a great location only getting to registration took lots of wayfinding effort, rooms were too spread out in some areas and confusing to find. Suggestion was made to look into a new location for next year. *Attendance-512 which was an increase from last year's conference of 245 but it could have been better if the conference took place earlier in November. Suggestion was to start planning earlier an earlier date was selected for 2018, the date for 2018 will be Saturday November 3rd.
Motion(s)	None

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Question(s)	<i>[This section is for less formal questions to pose to the PIAC group.]</i> None
Next Steps and Action items	Strike the WG earlier with the first meeting for the 2018 conference to take place in January. Continue to reach out for additional feedback, it is always welcome.
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